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PATRIOTISM, THE SAFE GUARD OF THE NATION.

KANSAS COMMANDERY,

MILITARY ORDER

—OF THE—

LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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PATRIOTISM, THE SAFE GUARD OF THE NATION.

A Paper read before the Kansas Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, March 7, 1894, by Companion Major O. B. Gunn.

Patriotism is defined as the love of one's country, and a patriot is one who zealously supports and defends it. To be loyal to ones country is to be devoted to the maintenance of law, to be ready to uphold the constitutional authority, to be faithful to the lawful government, and to be ready to take up arms in its defense when it is assailed by its enemies.

The germ of Patriotism is born in the cradle, and is developed in the home. Its first development is in the love and loyalty between the mother and the young child; then comes the loyalty of the members of the family one towards another, and all towards their home, which all stand ready to defend. With the lessons of obedience, love and integrity taught in the home come a high and pure type of loyalty. Next comes the loyalty to one's own city or county and its environments. With a larger growth comes the loyalty to one's native or adopted State; still later, with a broader understanding of affairs, comes loyalty to the Nation, and as all local growth and prosperity depends upon the growth and prosperity of the Nation, so all loyalty finds its highest type in the love of the nation and obedience to its Constitution and laws, which is summed up in the word "Patriotism."

It is written that, "A man shall leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife." It should also be written that a man will leave his

father and mother, brothers and sisters, wife and children, and shoulder his musket and go to the defense of his country in its hour of peril. It is a glorious thing to know that such a patriotic sentiment pervades the human heart, and that a call to arms in defense of the nation is never made in vain.

The safety, security and well being of every citizen, depends upon the stability of the Government, and the wise exercise of its administrative powers; and any attempt to obstruct the enforcement of the laws by force, is sure to produce a condition of great political excitement, leading directly to anarchy.

Under a Republican form of government, when faithfully and honestly administered, there can be no long continued mal-administration of governmental powers, or oppression of the people, for the reason that every male citizen of lawful age has the right to vote, and the poor and the weak, have the same political rights, as the rich and the strong, and they are absolutely equal at the ballot box, provided always, that elections are honestly conducted. As all real or imaginary wrongs, can be righted by the ballot, there ought never to be occasion for a rebellion against the constitutional authorities, and a resort to arms to overthrow the government.

The ballot box and the ballot, are the true weapons with which to defend our political rights, and any man guilty of robbing the citizen of this just and constitutional right to a free ballot, and an honest count, should be deemed worse than a highway robber.

Treason is the attempt to overturn the constitution, and destroy the lawful government, and is the opposite of patriotism.

In this country treason is confined to actually levying war against the United States, or adhering to its enemies. Under our constitution, any number of persons can form a conspiracy to make war upon and overthrow the government by force of arms, and can make any number of incendiary speeches denouncing the government, and inciting the people to revolt, and take up arms against it, but for this they cannot be punished for treason. It requires the overt act of actually making war upon the government, or aiding and abetting its enemies, to constitute treason, and when this overt act is committed it is treason and those engaged in it are traitors. In all civilized countries the penalty of treason is death.

When Gen. Benedict Arnold in command of the Continental Ar-

my at West Point, conspired with the British Commander, to betray his army into the hands of the enemies of his country, he became a traitor, and to this day his name is held in equal abhorrence with that of Judas Iscarriot. No man in this country, esteems him other than guilty of treason, and had he not escaped within the enemies lines, he would have been tried as a traitor, convicted as a traitor, and hanged as a traitor, and the line between his treason, and the loyalty of other officers of the army, is as clear and well defined to-day, as it was the day his traitorous conduct became known.

Arnold was appointed into the army from civil life, and had no previous military experience, except as Captain of a Militia Company, but he was a man of great energy and personal courage, and soon developed quite a genius for military operations, but he possessed a violent and vengeful disposition, and was dishonest and mercenary in his dealings with men. He was vain, egotistical, and exceedingly jealous of others. He was very angry that others were promoted in advance of himself, and when at last he was promoted and made a Major General, he found himself ranked by others whom he considered his inferiors. When at last his dishonesty and mercenary conduct caused him to be court-martialed, and he was reprimanded by the Commander-in-Chief, his rage knew no bounds, and it undoubtedly confirmed him in his already half formed plan to desert to the enemy, where he believed fame and fortune awaited him. He intended to betray West Point, at that time considered a great strategic point, into the hands of the British Commander, and but for the arrest of Major Andrè, with papers developing the whole plot, upon his person, would doubtless have succeeded. It is some satisfaction to know that he never achieved especial distinction in the British Army, his money reward was much less than he expected, and in London he was despised and insulted, and finally died in utter obscurity.

When the leaders of the Slave-holder's rebellion, most of whom were among the highest civil officers of the government of the United States, formed a great conspiracy, to make war, and actually did make war upon, and attempted to overthrow the government, they were guilty of treason even in a greater degree, than Benedict Arnold. He was actuated by a spirit of personal revenge, for real or imaginary wrongs. They had no such feeling to urge them on. They had had possession of the government and its administration almost continually from its foundation. The real question at issue was that of human slavery,—the ownership

of man by man. Shall the States be all free or all slave? The excuse for war was the peaceful and quiet election of that great and good man, Abraham Lincoln, to the Presidency of the United States, in place of the weak and vacillating Buchanan. The encroachments of the slave power were so bold and aggressive, that the people proposed to institute a reform at the ballot box. For this offense, Southern members of the Cabinet, Senators and Representatives, at once made active preparations to dismember and destroy the government, headed by that arch traitor, Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War; the army was scattered, the forts dismantled, or placed within the jurisdiction of the rebels, the navy disorganized, the treasury robbed, and everything done to render the government so weak and powerless, as to be unable to make a successful fight for its life, and to fall an easy prey to the conspirators. During months of secession and traitorous preparation, not the slightest attempt was made to counteract these traitorous movements. The supreme moment finally came; Fort Sumpter was attacked, the overt act was committed, the treason was consummated, and the nation, after being crippled and almost strangled to death with no right of defense until the overt act was committed, at last had a right to defend itself. Many thousand lives were lost, thousands of homes were made desolate, millions of money were spent and on many a hard fought battle field, the ground was soaked with human blood. At first these infamous conspirators were called traitors, later, after they formed a so-called Confederacy, and put large armies in the field, they were called rebels; later still, as the war progressed these offensive terms were modified, and the mild, inoffensive and polite term "Confederates" became the correct thing. At the final surrender at Appomattox, Gen. Grant, with a magnanimity without precedence in the history of the world, allowed General Lee to retain his sword and his officers their side arms, and paroled his entire army on such liberal terms, as no conquering hero had ever before done to a vanquished foe. To General Lee's honor be it said, that he acknowledged himself vanquished, his cause lost. He accepted the situation quietly, and in good faith retired to private life, and was never known to utter a word of disparagement to the Government thereafter. Not many months had elapsed before those who had engaged in the rebellion were pardoned by the magnanimous Government, and one by one were returned to their old places in the Senate and House of Representatives, in Washington, and for the last twenty years,

may truly be said to have had control of the House of Representatives. Now with all this great-hearted action of the Government, with the full approbation of the people of the loyal states, one would suppose that the beaten and thoroughly defeated confederates would plainly see, that the people of the loyal states, had no hatred of the people of the rebellious states. They fought — not to kill and destroy, because they hated slave holders, but simply to uphold and sustain the lawful government. They did not hate the slave holders, but the system of cruelty and oppression, which the ownership of man by man had built up, and the pernicious doctrine, that the state was greater than the nation, and that the citizen's first allegiance was to the state, and when the authority of the state and nation were in conflict, it was his duty to take up arms against the National Government, when called upon by state authorities.

Unfortunately in this country the nation is made up of a consolidation of States, each with certain reserved constitutional rights. The line between the rights of the States and those of the Nation was so dim and indistinct as to furnish a foothold for those states determined to separate from the other states, to demand the right to a quiet withdrawal from the nation, and the right to set up a separate Government for themselves.

The doctrine of nullification promulgated by Calhoun in 1828, in which he declared that each state had the constitutional right to decide for itself upon the constitutionality of any law passed by Congress and prevent its execution within its own limits if regarded as inimical to its own interests, was probably the origin of the right of secession claimed by the Southern states thirty years later.

At any rate the State's Rights Idea was the basis of the secession movement, and while slavery was the prime first cause, the claimed right of secession was the excuse and half-open door through which the rebels expected to quietly walk out of the Union, and there were many in the loyal states who dreaded a civil war, and thought it the best way to let the "erring sisters go in peace," and even so eminent an opponent of the slave power as Horace Greeley advocated this idea, when it was found that Civil War was inevitable. Such a course would have been a death blow to our National existence, as it would have shown to the world, and to ourselves, that our boasted form of Government was only held together by a rope of sand, to be destroyed whenever a rebellion should arise in any state, and the state authorities should demand a release from the Union, and patriotism, instead of being a living principle, would have become only the ghost of a dead sentiment.

A civil war is the most deplorable of all wars; when one nation opposes another in battle array it is bad enough, but in a civil war, where father is often arrayed against son, and brother against brother, nothing can be more deplorable. Then the war is often carried into the home and invades the fireside; thousands of such cases occured in the late War of the Rebellion, mostly in the border states. It being a political war for the dismemberment of the Union and the permanent establishment of slavery on the one side, and the perpetuity of the nation on the other, both sides fought with bravery, energy and desperation. The Union troops were ready to lay down their lives for their country, and no greater display of patriotism was ever seen in any country. The people in comprehension of the impending conflict were far in advance of the administration, and thousands of common people foresaw what the administration seemed to fail to see that it was to be a long and bloody war, only to be ended by the total defeat and vanquishment of the one side or the other.

When Abraham Liucoln was inaugurated president, he found the government without an army, and a treasury without money, yet notwithstanding that the rebels were arming and organizing all over the south, Mr. Lincoln and his Cabinet seemed to think it all a bluff, and that the South had no real intention of precipitating Civil War. In the meantime, the patriotism of the loyal states was thoroughly aroused, and the blood of every patriot boiled with indignation at the daily reports of the outrages perpetrated by the southern states in actively promoting secession, and the preparations which they were making for active war. At last Fort Sumpter was fired upon and very soon the feeble garrison surrendered. Little did the slave holders think that the sound of the first gun, as it reverbrated over Charleston harbor, sounded the death knell of slavery. The patriotism of the loyal men of the Nation was thoroughly aroused and they sprang to arms as one man, but as incredible as it now seems, the President called for only 75,000 men, and those only for ninety days. Scores of regiments were offered to the government, only to be rejected, while the rebels had been organizing and drilling for months. and making every preparation for a long and bitter war. The disastrous battle of Bull Run, the first of the war, brought the administration to its senses. They began to see that the rebels were in earnest, and that grim visaged war with all its horrors was upon them. Not one of our soldiers or officers had ever seen a great battle. A few had achieved distinction in the Mexican War, but that compared with the war they

were entering upon was a mere skirmish. Our men rallied from all the walks and conditions of life, full of patriotism and enthusiasm, ready to do their part in the bloody conflict. After four years of hard fighting, the loss of hundreds of thousands of brave men, and the bereavement of thousands of homes, the war finally came to end, and victory crowned the Union arms. Peace was declared, hundreds of thousands of veteran soldiers were mustered out and returned quietly home to again engage in the pursuits of peace.

Many predicted that having been so long under arms, and become so used to the carnage of war, that many of the old soldiers would return home worthless, dissipated and reckless, and would become a terror to the communities in which they lived. But the same noble patriotism which took them to war, and carried them through the hardships of many a bloody campaign, returned them good citizens, and no more orderly soldiers ever returned to their homes.

After the surrender of Lee's army at Appomattox, the great question of dealing with the leading rebels came up for adjustment. Jefferson Davis, the ringleader who headed the rebellion was caught and arraigned for treason. Horace Greeley, whose constant cry through the New York *Tribune* of "On to Richmond" precipitated the first battle of Bull Run, causing great disaster to the raw Union troops, who had little idea of a great battle, and nearly causing the capture of Washington, and the establishment of the Confederacy then and there, came forward and became the principal bondsman for the arch traitor. That mawkish sentiment which leads fair women to take flowers to prison to bedeck a foul murderer prevailed. Davis was set free without a trial, and that patriotic sentiment, "The penalty of treason is death" is practically declared by the action of the Government to be a sentiment only fit for use when calling for soldiers to defend the life of the Nation and when traitors are caught and arraigned for punishment to be cast aside as an assassin tramples upon the 6th commandment when he commits a murder. Perhaps after this exhibition of feebleness on the part of the Government it ought not to expect patriotism to survive as a living principle among those who had fought the battles and saved the life of the nation.

After the collapse of the Confederacy came the great question of reconstruction. Eleven states had passed ordinances of secession and claimed to be out of the Union. The rebels were defeated and humiliated, but still solid for the lost cause. Four millions of slaves were set free. What was the best thing to do? was a question that might well engage

the best thought of our wisest statesmen. Many like General Butler were in favor of holding the defeated states as conquered provinces. Others like Seward and Greeley were in favor of new elections of the Legislatures under Federal jurisdiction. All were in favor of enfranchising the freed negroes, and the 15th Amendment to the Constitution was adopted, by which the late slaves were enfranchised and were given the right of free suffrage, and the State Legislatures were set in motion. Many of the leading rebels were at first disfranchised, but afterwards were restored to the full right of citizenship. The adherents of the lost cause, who created the solid south, never once lost sight of regaining possession of the Government. In a few years the southern states were represented in both houses of Congress by Generals and high civilians who had been most active in promoting the rebellion. At first many freedmen were elected to Congress, under military supervision, but finally in 1876, all soldiers were withdrawn from the southern states, and the newly enfranchised negroes were left to the tender mercies of their late masters, and the freedmen became so thoroughly bulldozed and Ku-Kluxed by the late rebels, that they have finally ceased to be a political factor in the southern states. Every protest of the loyal people against the outrages perpetrated upon the freed negroes were sneered at and declared to be "waving the bloody shirt." The South for the last few years has become so thoroughly solid that in Presidential elections every state which was formerly a slave holding state is counted upon as perfectly certain to vote in opposition to the sentiment which fought the battles for the Union. The solid south has persistently worked for one thing and never lost sight of it, and that is to again get full control of the Government in all its departments. How well they have succeeded, I leave you to judge.

Perhaps no device of the ex-confederates for winning the Union soldiers away from their loyalty to the patriotic sentiments which fought the battles of the Union is so cunning and enticing as the Society of the Blue and the Gray. It teaches that the war is over, and that all who fought on both sides were brave men; that it was only a great family fight in which the Union side by greater numbers and by force of arms vanquished the other side; that each fought for what they thought was right, and consequently each side was equally meritorious. When a Union soldier consents to sit or march under the confederate flag, and see the folds of "Old Glory" mixed and mingled with the banner of secession and treason, you may consider his patriotism a thing of the past, that is

if he ever had any, which may well be doubted. It shows, that he has no conception of the principles involved in the great Civil War; that it was a great contest involving the live of the Nation, organized and precipitated by a gang of conspirators and traitors for the destruction of the Union and overthrow of the Nation. Where patriots were ranged upon one side and traitors were ranged upon the other, and the line between the two was distinctly marked, and was the line between patriotism and treason, which should never be allowed to be dimmed or obliterated. For a Union soldier to join the Society of the Blue and the Gray is equivalent to a desertion of the Union cause for which he fought and a declaration that patriotism is dead within his heart. Such conduct on the part of all Union soldiers would be a death blow to patriotism, and when the line between patriotism and treason becomes so dim as that, it will take but little to obliterate it entirely, and when patriotism is nearly dead in the hearts of the people, the life of the Republic is in great danger.

The government of the people, by the people, and for the people, is now on trial. Ours is the only Republic on the face of the earth, except perhaps little Switzerland. France is a Republic only in name. The Central and South American Republics are absurd little concerns governed by a coterie of Spanish Grandees, and like their volcanoes generally in a state of eruption. Mexico is but little better.

Shall the great Republic endure is a question which many a man has asked himself, and it is a question of great concern. We have little danger of a foreign war, but the danger of another civil war is by no means remote. A foreign war unites and cements a Nation together, and arouses the fervor of Patriotism. The war cry then is "Our Country! May it always be right! But our Country right or wrong." All the animosities engendered by devastating war are directed towards the common foe, and the harder the fighting the more glorious the victory and the greater the glow of patriotism. A Civil War on the other hand divides and distracts a Nation and engenders hatred of one portion of the people against another and against the Government. The vanquished never forgive the victors, and generations of time never wholly efface the effect of Civil War.

There are many good reasons why we may not anticipate another foreign war. We occupy a peculiarly isolated position with regard to other Nations. Our strength is so great, and our Mexican and South American neighbors are so weak that there is little danger in that direction. Canada and British America on the north are British provinces,

vast in area, but thinly populated. Their territory adjoins us from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and would be a most vulnerable point of attack, and we could put such an army in the field in ninety days as to capture and hold it. The British could only attack us effectively with its navy, and our own navy and coast defenses are growing rapidly, and are of the latest and best construction, and with our coast and merchant marine armed as privateers, we could in a few months destroy British ocean commerce.

The British Government is fully aware of our advantages, and the danger of seriously interfering with American affairs in any part of the world, so that the danger of war with the British Nation is very remote. No other foreign Nation is near enough to us to meddle with our affairs, and besides they have enough to do in watching each other, so there is very little danger of war with a foreign nation.

As between the United States and Great Britain a curious sentiment has been developed in favor of arbitration. A few well disposed persons who think it is better and nobler to run away, than to fight for our rights, have devised this cowardly plan, and put it in operation. Of course England is delighted to have its differences with the United States, arbitrated by the despotic governments of Europe, whose sympathies are all against us, and England is sure by this method of getting two-thirds of the loaf, when by fighting she would get nothing but a thorough drubbing. In our late unpleasantness about the Behring Sea, and its seals, by arbitration we gave ourselves away, and got the small end of the loaf, as we always will when we leave a foreign people to say whether we are right or wrong, Let our own best statesmen decide whether we are right or wrong. If we are right stand up and fight like a man ; i. wrong, sur render the case like a man. Imagine, if you can, France and Germany submitting their differences to half a dozen of the American Republics, or England arbitrating its differences with Egypt or Ireland in the same way. No, the logic of the situation is entirely against the likelihood of our being engaged in a foreign war for many years to to come. On the other hand there are good reasons why another Civil War may be expected. The Union soldiers may not live to see it, but many of the young men now in their teens, will have to battle for the supremacy of the Union, as their fathers did before them. In the first place, we have all the religions on the face of the earth, Jews, Roman Catholics, Protestants of High and Low degree, Mormons, Mohammedans, Buddhists, Christian Scientists, Spiritualists, Free-thinkers, Agnostics and

Infidels; an incongruous multitude, and all more or less antagonistic to each other. Then we have all kinds of politics and political divisions between whom no love is lost. Democrats, Republicans, Populists, Prohibitionists, Anarchists, Communists, Free Traders, Protectionists, Union Laborers, Female Suffragists, Gold Bugs, Silver Bugs, and every other kind of a political bug. The enmities of all these classes of religionists, and political clans, is so great, that patriotism is lost sight of in the general shuffle that all are engaged in, to reach the top rounds of the ladder, and gain control of the City, State and National Government. Our people are all in a state of unrest and discontent. We see the labor organized against capital, and demanding the right to fix time, wages, and regulations of the men who employ them, and the right to deny non-union men employment. Then we have the outrageously dishonest methods of elections, the most dangerous factor of all, gradually creeping over the whole body politic, and we need not go farther than Kansas City to learn all about the methods used to count out, and keep out enough votes to give the dominant party control of the local government, and greatly aid national and state politics.

Again, we are the dumping ground for all the earth; thousands of criminals and anarchists, are turned in upon us every year, whose only idea of a free country is, free whiskey, free lunches, free dives, and free brothels, freedom to cut the throat of honest people, not one with a knowledge of, or a care for, the institutions of our country, speaking foreign languages, and who are rushed to the polls a few weeks after landing upon our shores, before becoming citizens, and are voted like so many cattle.

These miscellaneous and incongruous peoples, religions and politics under our weak form of government,are bound to clash at some future time, and produce a civil war. Looking westward, over Kansas, we see a great state, but lately one of the most stalwart in its patriotism, upon whose broad prairies, the first blood which preceded the war was spilled, in defense of a free ballot, and a free state; the great lion of patriotism, in four short years, turned into a braying ass, led by an Amazon in petticoats, and followed by a shrieking mob of Populists and Anarchists, with its demagogue Governor issuing a seditious call to the Governors of the Western and Southern States to hold a convention, to provide for a combination of those states against the Northern and Eastern States. Its delegation in congress, once among the most powerful and influential of any state, supplanted by a gang of cheap demagogues,

whose only idea of statesmanship is, that they must tear down everything that it has taken a century to build up.

In Colorado we see a governor who declares that the people of his state will rise in rebellion and wade to their horses' bridles in blood if Congress dares to pass laws believed to be unfavorable to their private interests, and calling the Legislature together in special session to pass coinage laws in violation of the constitution of the United States.

In far off Oregon another seditious Governor who sends insulting messages to the president of the United States, and injects a seditious stump speech into a thanksgiving proclamation.

Looking eastward, we see the country filled up with foreign criminals, Anarchists, and paupers, not yet citizens, from the old world, all voting together like so many cattle. We see the money aristocracy organizing trusts of all kinds, in order to control the output of the nation's productions.

We see a great political octopus so complete and powerful, as to hold the great city of New York in its grip as in a vice. This great organization, gathering in the ignorant immigrants from all nations, and taking them to the polls, and voting them as they please. This organization is so powerful, unscrupulous and corrupt that it has finally got control of the state of New York, which in national affairs controls the nation. For a long time it has worked for this great prize, until it has it surely in its grasp, and its sympathies, and efforts are not toward you, but against you always. Similar organizations exist in every city worth having, always on the alert, always vigilant, always aggressive, always ready to vote the ignorant, the corrupt and the degraded, always on the side of the saloon, and dive and the brothel, always up and awake when honest men are asleep. It stops at nothing to secure control of the government, both local and national. Measuring all these antagonistic and corrupt forces, do you not see that we are upon a volcano, which is liable to burst into an eruption at almost any time, and when it comes it will be ten fold worse than the late civil war. It will be fought not on sentimental and moral grounds, but on partisan and religious lines, which will divide families, villages, cities, and states, and arouse hatreds and animosities which will rend every community in the land, and fortunate we shall be if the Union is not torn into fragments.

Nature seems to have ordained an eternal warfare among all created beings. We declare that the cruel and savage wolf kills and devours the innocent lamb, and yet the wolf is just as innocent as the lamb. The

wolf is a carnivorous animal and is obliged to eat flesh and blood, or die. It c nnot subsist upon any other diet. It simply kills other animals to furnish life to itself and its offsprings. This is true of all carnivorous anmals. In order to exist, nature furnishes it with sharp teeth and claws, powerful jaws and great muscular power and a cunning that causes it like an assassin to lie in wait for its prey and spring upon it unawares, bear down and destroy it. The carnivorous animal is always a fighting animal, and nature has provided it with fighting weapons. The herbiferous animal on the contrary cannot exist upon flesh and blood, but must live upon rass and herbaceous food. Nature furnishes it with no weapons of defense against its carnivorous enemies. It only furnishes it with fleet legs with which to run away; consequently, all herbiferous animals appear to be cowards. The herbiferous animal destroys life only as it crushes the insects which seek cover in the herbage upon which it feeds or tramples the helpless worm beneath its feet.

What is true of quadrupeds is also true of flesh and fish eating birds and the fish of the sea.

Man is an omnivorous animal and devours almost anything that liv s upon the earth or in the sea. Everything alike goes to his omnivorous and ever hungry maw, and his alimentary canal every day passes ten times as much of the products of the earth as the Suez canal. Allowing each person upon the earth two ounces of flesh per day, and the amount of flesh alone consumed every day is more than 90,000 tons, or enough to load a freight train 30 miles long. This shows what a tremendous slaughter house the world is, and it is so from necessity.

Nature has given man no natural weapons of offense or defense, nor fleet limbs by which he can seek safety in flight, but has given him an active brain and cunning hands, by which he has gained dominion over all the earth. The wild beast kills only for food, and rarely one of its own species. But man preys upon his own species with even greater rapacity and cruelty than he hunts the wild beast. The wild beast kills only to appease its hunger, while man kills from fear, anger, jealousy, revenge, malice, avarice, fanaticism, and in time of war from patriotism.

From the very dawn of history we read that the principal business of all nations, tribes and clans has been the killing of each other, sometimes by the marshalling of armies against each other, and sometimes in single combat; and not con'ent with killing, the strong have mutilated and tortured the weak in every conceivable way. To call their

methods brutal would be a libel upon the brutes. They were horrible, fiendish and devilish. The Inquisition, the dungeon, the rack, the torch, the crucifix, the thumb screw, pulling limb from limb, breaking the bones, and tearing the flesh, and every fiendish torture that the ingenuity of man could devise, were the fate of those who dared to think differently from those in power. In war, death, destruction, rapine, and plunder, were the order, and the weaker races have been exterminated and swept from the face of the earth, while the stronger races, are to-day, almost face to face with their immense armies, and death dealing machines, ready at any time on slight provocation to plunge headlong into devastating war, and wipe each other out of existence. And this is Nature's way of keeping down the population of the earth, and it is a necessity that it should be so. It is said that during the middle ages the world was so desolated by war, pestilence and famine that the population of the earth only doubled once in a thousand years, but now with wars nearly done away with, pestilence conquered by knowledge of hygienic laws, and famine prevented by extraordinary facilities for distribution, the population is increasing with great rapidity. In this country we have increased four per cent. per annum ever since the Revolutionary war, and we are increasing now at the rate of three yer cent. per annum. In A. D. 1900 we will have more than 70,000,000 of inhabitants. Continue our rate of increase at three per cent. per annum, and we double three times in a century, and in A. D. 2000 we will have 560,000,000 of people, and in A. D. 2050, we will have in the United States a population equal to the entire present population of the world.

These figures are appalling and lead us to enquire what is to become of the future tremendous population of the earth. Already Europe cannot produce enough to feed its crowded population. Asia, with the exception of Russia in Asia, is but little better off. Supposing that the population of the whole earth should only increase only at the rate of doubling once in a century, then in the year 2000 there will be 3,000,000,000 of people living, and in A. D 2100 there will be 6,000,000,000 people and so on to the end.

Even at the lowest estimate you may choose to make, the time is not many centuries ahead when the world will be so overcrowded with population that they cannot find standing room or enough to eat. It will then indeed be a struggle for existence, and the survival of the fittest. From a purely philosophical standpoint, it would seem that whatever tends to keep down the population of the earth would be a blessing to fu-

ture generations, while from a moral standpoint we feel bound to make present generations as healthy and long lived as possible without troubling ourselves about future generations. Nevertheless the time will surely come, and not many centuries in the future, when generations will be unable to provide themselves with sufficient food and when they will have to fight and kill their fellow men for the right to live themselves.

When these conditions arise, as they surely will, Nature will assert herself, and in the struggle for existence, the weak will be crushed and swept off the face of the earth.

Warfare then seems to be the natural condition of mankind. Cain the first son of Adam and Eve, began war when he slew his brother Abel, and the warfare has been continuous ever since; some times in single combat, sometimes by an aggregation of men, called armies, and a general slaughter till one or the other was vanquished or wiped out of existence. And war has the full sanction of the Almighty, for it is written that he personally conducted some of the Jewish wars, and even caused the sun and moon to stand still, in order to give Joshua and his army time to exterminate his enemies. The pages of sacred and profane history, are red with the blood of countless wars and battles, many of a religious character, where the religious sentiment was so stimulated as to turn men into fiends, till the thirst for blood only ended in the extermination of the opposing men, the ravishment of their women, and the plunder and destruction of their homes. Wars are now conducted on what are called humane principles, and our own Civil War was probably conducted, on the Union side, with as much humanity as the slaughter of thousands of men in a single battle would permit. In the absence of war, our people amuse themselves after the manner of Cain, and slaughter each other at leisure. The revolver and the knife are carried indiscriminately, by our people, largely by the vicious class, and murders are of daily occurrence all around us, and among us. The local governments are too weak to punish murderers, except in rare cases, and the murderer who has money, or has a strong political backing, always goes scot free. Probably more men are murdered in this country every year than were killed in any battle during the war. But while we may deplore this condition of things, we should remember that this is Nature's way of keeping down the population of the earth, and will go on and on forever. Enough has been recited to show the dangers which lurk in ambush, and which may grow into Civil War and a dismemberment of the Nation.

The Union soldiers can do nothing to prevent it, but we can stick to the old flag; suffer no blandishments to cause us to mix the blue with the gray, and thereby demoralize our patriotism, but stand squarely where we stood in the trying times of war, and ever declare that the line between patriotism and treason shall never be dimmed or obscured,

And to the young men who know nothing personally of the horrors of war, remember that patriotism is a divine sentiment. It has built up all the grand and substantial governments of the earth, whether Christian or Pagan, It is that noble sentiment without which no government could long exist. It is the tie that binds together all the people of a nation, and inspires them to risk their lives in its defense, in every hour of danger. In a foreign war patriotism is solidified in each nation at war, and under the inspiration of this sublime sentiment heroes are made. In a civil war the rebellious portion of the people, renounce their allegiance, lose their patriotism, and become traitors; and when conquered never again feel the inspiration of that grand sentiment as they did before. May heaven spare us from another Civil War. "Old Glory," the star spangled banner, the flag of our country, is the visible embodiment of patriotism. It is beyond compare the handsomest flag that floats, and it represents the beauty and purity of our government, as devised and inaugurated by our fathers, when every voter was supposed to be honest, intelligent and virtuous, and that all elections would be fair and honest, and every vote counted as cast, free from all outside influences. That we have departed from the government, as originally designed by its founders, we all know, and that much fraud and corruption is practiced in many of our elections. That Civil War has dulled the edge of patriotism, no one can doubt, but that it still lives in the hearts of a majority of our people is undoubtedly true. As long as patriotism is a living sentiment in our hearts, and we can rise above politics, the nation is safe, but when politics and partisanship rise above patriotism, the nation is in great peril.

Remember always that "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty," and that Patriotism is the safeguard of the Nation, and let us resolve that

While we live, until we die, to our country, we'll be true,
In memory of the loyal dead, we'll pledge ourselves anew,
To be faithful to our Country's cause, and the gallant boys in blue,
Who fought, bled and died to save the Union.

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